

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010**

**The single meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee for the month of December was held on Monday, December 13, 2010, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, John C. Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM.**

**Present: John C. Bento, Chair, Paul Silva, Vice-Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Denise R. Arsenault, Diana B. Campbell, Karen A. Lynch, Marjorie J. McBride, Susan Rancourt and John P. Saviano; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Pauline A. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; Leslie J. Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor**

**Absent: none**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

**All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

## **Accolades**

**The District Holiday Greeting Card, for the past several years, has been designed by a student. This year we asked Art Teacher, Maria Camara, to have some students at Kickemuit Middle School create a design for consideration. Several students submitted their drawings--they were all very special but only one could be chosen for the card. We have a gift certificate to Don's Art shop for the artist whose drawing was used on the 2010 Holiday Card-- a sixth grader—**  
**Amanda Estrela**

**The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards improves teaching and student learning. National Board Certified Teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards. Like board-certified doctors and accountants, teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review. Recently, one of our teachers earned National Board Certification; we would like to thank this Kickemuit Middle School teacher for her commitment to improving their teaching skills.**

**Congratulations to: Michelle Way DaSilva. Mrs. Thies commented that visiting Ms. DaSilva's class made her want to return to the seventh grade.**

**The Kickemuit Middle School Girls Soccer Team, on Tuesday, November 9, beat Cole Middle School in East Greenwich by a score of 2 to 0, completing an undefeated season, and winning 16 straight games. Through outstanding playing and teamwork they won the Rhode Island State Championship. We congratulate their coach, John Raposa, and team members:**

**Melanie DaSilva –Captain Sara Aubin Samantha Tyler**

**Shaelyn Raposa –Captain Alexia D’Atri Alexandra Pires**

**Alexandra Winnes – Captain Mallory Beskid Kiahna Almeida**

**Madison Beck – Captain Taylor Perry Holly Vollaro**

**Samantha Hogan Julia Hill Michaela Goglia**

**Kelsie Mitchell Madeline Lombardo Taylor DeMello**

**Hannah Klein Carlie Rochefort Olivia Cairrao**

**Tess Carrairo Laura Lopes**

**The Mt. Hope Girls JV Soccer Team made history this season! -Allowing only two goals scored against them all season, their final record was 14-0-2 going undefeated –a very impressive accomplishment for any soccer team. Through hard work, determination and playing together as a team, they became the first JV girls team at Mt. Hope High School to win the Division II JV Championship. We congratulate Coaches Kerri Ferreira and Gina Calenda, and especially the team members:**

**Alexandra Threadgill Alexandra Hill Brittini Skipper  
Mary Powers Hayley Cambrola Dyshell Palmer  
Taylor Sousa Catherine Lopes Emma Pattie  
Kaitlyn Ouellette Nicole Rusin Brittany Gamon  
Olivia Almeida Alexandra Wetherald Kylie McPherson  
Kaelyn Silveira Destinee DeSousa Hailie Dion  
Zoe Almeida Kristina Lynch**

**Mt. Hope High School Freshman Football Team had an equally  
successful 2010 season. Under the direction and leadership of Coach  
Bryan Travers, the team won the 2010 Division II East Championship.  
We are proud to congratulate team members:**

**Kyle Valenzuela (Captain) David Ramos Jason Ferro  
Devin Ellinwood Ian Whitaker Conor McCormack  
Jesse Raiola (Captain) Andrew Medeiros Melanie Barbary  
Brent Millard William Francis Kollen Barcelos  
John Nito Vaughn Byrd Jared Ramos  
Jon Perroni Jared Sousa Matthew Mendonca  
Jose Tavares Merrill Sampson Dylan Simas  
Nicholas Murgo (Captain) John Scholz Patrick Asciola  
Ryan Bartell Shemseddine Chabane Nicholas Anania**

**Added to this list after the meeting were:**

**Jared Tweedy Zachary Schiedler Nick Freeman**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**None**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

**None**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.**

**BUDGET FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. O'Dell said the next meeting will be December 20 at 6:30 PM in the Superintendent's Office; the budget focused discussion will be on grant funding.**

**POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mrs. Arsenault said the Subcommittee will meet either January 3 or January 31; the agenda will be posted at the usual places as well as the parent sites.**

**Wellness Committee**

**Mrs. Campbell reported their next meeting is this Wednesday, December 15; 4:30 PM; discussion will be on moving forward with the Week of Wellness Event in March.**

#### **PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Mr. Saviano reported the Negotiation Team is working with the Union to schedule the first meeting to start negotiations, hopefully next week.**

#### **FUTURE ENROLLMENT AND FACILITIES TASK FORCE**

**Mrs. Lynch had nothing new to report at this time.**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES**

##### **Community Development Block Grant**

**Walter Burke, Bristol's Director of Parks and Recreation, explained to the Committee that based on a meeting with Diane Mederos and Joe Dias of DEM, it appears we are in a perfect position to partner together to secure grants to supplement upgrades to the High School fields. Grants issued by DEM must go through Mr. Burke's office and the grant must be submitted by the Town, the area must be open to the public and the land must be owned by the Town, which it is, and Bristol must hold the deed, which it does. The 13.5 acres around the**

High School are part of the watershed which also includes the golf course, cemetery and Silver Creek and ultimately the Bay. The filling in of land has taken away the ground's storage capacity for water, contributing greatly to the flooding on Hope Street and carrying fertilizer into Silver Creek and the Bay and raising nitrate levels which kills wild life and vegetation. Studies indicate remediation can be accomplished by the reclaiming of the golf course by the Town (which it owns), and dredging to bring it back to wetland; a trail system can be installed and native grasses planted; the wild life would return, the water flow would slow and be cleaned by the time it reaches the High School. For the fields Mr. Burke recommends the installation of underground drainage and synthetic turf on the main fields and practice fields; synthetic turf does not have to be cut or fertilized and extends playing time. A collaboration between the Town and the District would open doors to a great deal of funding, such as DEM for water quality and FEMA for flood mitigation, Bristol being one of 9 communities in the State that qualify for flood mitigation, and open space and recreation funding.

In response to questions from Committee Members, Mr. Burke said Silver Creek is included in Bristol's Disaster Recovery Plan; he has not seen the District's study to secure DEM permitting, and Naomi Street is included in the master plan.

Mrs. McBride expressed concerns about sports injuries on synthetic turf; Mr. Burke said Middletown is very pleased with theirs, but it

must be installed properly; Mrs. Thies will request some statistics from The Trust; the permitting secured from DEM is valid for three years but does not include synthetic turf. The turf life is about 20 years; the drainage underneath can last much long if done properly. Geese are not attracted to this turf but it must be disinfected once a year.

Mr. Burke would like a vote of approval from the School Committee, and one from the Bristol Town Council, then schedule a workshop with all to include the Environmental Council. Regarding matching funds, the money secured for the golf course can be used for matching money for the High School because it is all part of the watershed. Mrs. Lynch asked if the Town would also be contributing matching funds since they are also benefitting and she wants assurance that the High School portion of the project will be completed. Mr. Burke said the total estimate is approximately \$7M; money from the District is nominal and the Town would contribute; the plan is in the concept stage. Mrs. Campbell said FEMA funds do not require matching money but are not available until 2012; Mr. Burke said DEM is a 50/50 match; the project will be very fluid and open to changes.

Mr. Saviano thanked Mr. Burke for his efforts and complimented him on what he is doing. Mrs. Arsenault agreed and is appreciative of all Mr. Burke has done for the entire Town; she is also concerned about finances and suggested the authorities involved in housing aid be



included in the workshop with the Town.

Mrs. Campbell asked about the Memo of Understanding being worked out with the Town; Mr. Silva said the only thing necessary is the posting of a sign when the field is available for public use. Mr. Burke said maintenance would remain the same; he will be in the background generating funding; scheduling would also remain the same, with the District always taking preference and priority of use. Mrs. McBride would not be comfortable without an MOU. Mr. Bento's intention is to reach out to the Bristol Town Council Chair. Mrs. Thies thanked Mr. Burke for his efforts in terms of creativity in seeking grant funds; our budget is limited and we must keep a careful eye on how we move forward; we also must clearly know the benefits to the District, the total cost and the contribution expected from the District.

Mr. O'Dell suggested a meeting be arranged with the Town Council right away in regards to campus and non-campus land. Everyone was grateful to Walter Burke for his efforts.

### **Going Paperless**

Mrs. Rancourt reported on the paperless experience of the Barrington School Committee saying the Barrington School District purchased five netbooks for the Committee members which stay in the Superintendent's Office; documents are uploaded to a secure website and downloaded to each netbook; members have access from

anywhere; the documents are also projected on two large screen televisions for the audience. The cost of the netbooks was far less than the cost of printing; their biggest cost savings was with their policy book.

Mrs. Campbell believes this is a good idea and suggested it be taken up by the Technology Task Force. Mr. Saviano nominated Mrs. Rancourt to head the Technology Task Force; Mrs. Rancourt agreed. Mrs. McBride felt every School Committee member would benefit from attending a school committee meeting other than Bristol Warren's. Mr. Bento asked Mrs. Rancourt to contact Paul Morris to research and gather facts and consider the possibilities of members purchasing their own netbooks at the District rate, then prepare a recommendation to the Budget Subcommittee.

Mr. O'Dell's concerns are the timing of the receipt of the packet and the availability of the documents at the meeting. Mr. Silva said the secure site would be available to anyone with an access ID and password at any time. Mr. O'Dell felt the new delivery system should have been fully in place before the old system was abandoned. Mr. Bento polled the members on their preference for delivery of paper copies or electronic online delivery. Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Arsenault, Mrs. Lynch, Mr. Silva, Mr. Saviano and Mrs. Rancourt were comfortable with electronic delivery, and Mrs. McBride, Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Bento preferred hard copy delivery until netbooks are available.

**Mrs. Thies mentioned that Paul Morris has been out on medical leave and is due back on December 20th or after the holidays. Mr. O'Dell said the Budget Subcommittee will be interested in the financial impact.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES**

### **S2010-55 A-G: CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL**

**A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Child Outreach Screener (Part Time) as listed below:**

#### **1. Melissa Kavanagh Child Outreach Screener (Part Time)**

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder  
of the 2010-11 school year only**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy in accordance with  
grant funding**

**(Resignation – M. Anderson)**

**Funding: IDEA Preschool Grant**

**B. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the School of the 21st Century,**

**Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):**

**1. Thomas M. Hanson Child Care Intern (Part Time)**

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder  
of the 2010-11 school year**

**Reason: To fill a vacancy**

**Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient**

**C. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2010-11 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):**

**WINTER COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH**

**Sport Position Coach**

**1. Hockey Asst. Coach Craig Larisa \***

**ADVISORS**

**2. Art Club/National Art Society Lauren Enjeti**

**3. Robotics Ryan Garrity**

**HEALTHY HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER/GYM AREA SUPERVISORS**

**4. After School Gym Area Supervisor (2nd Quarter) \*\* Meredith Friedman**

**\* Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**\*\* Funded by Warren Substance Abuse Task Force**

**D. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:**

**CERTIFIED**

**Name Area/Level**

- 1. Pedro M. DeAlmeida General Subject Matter**
- 2. Tina M. Elderkin Early Childhood/Sp.Ed.**
- 3. Erin P. Goulart Elementary**
- 4. Barbara L. Skober General Subject Matter**
- 5. Sharon M. Solway English/ESL/Psychology**
- 6. Bernice Stone General Subject Matter**

**E. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:**

## **SECRETARIAL**

- 1. Elizabeth R. Baril-Smith**
- 2. Elizabeth A. Barrett**

## **CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE**

- 3. Robert J. Wicks**

**F. LEAVES OF ABSENCE:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence for an Elementary Art Teacher and a Secretary as follows:

- 1. Sarah Jacobs Art Teacher - Rockwell**

**Effective: February 28, 2011, for 6-8 weeks**

**Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with**

**Article 21, Section L1 of the Master**

**Agreement**

- 2. Geraldine Faillace Secretary – Kickemuit Middle**

**Effective: December 15, 2010 through**

**December 15, 2011, pending**

**release from physician**

**Reason: Leave in accordance with Article 20**

**of the Master Agreement**

**G. TERMINATION OF NON-CERTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF:** That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote of June 28, 2010 of the following listed auxiliary school personnel and appoint the listed personnel to the positions indicated:

**Name Anticipated Assignment**

- 1. Sandy Farias-Borges Secretary (Effective 12/13/10)  
(Leave of Absence Vacancy)**

**Recommendation #S 2010-56:** That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the use of the Smart Bus Live system.

**MOTION:** Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mr. Silva seconded. Mrs. Thies informed the Committee that she, Mrs. Silva and Mr. Simmons, along with the Warren and Bristol Police Chiefs, met with the Smart Bus Live Company for a demonstration of the system which provides a safeguard for the children and generates some money for the District. The installation of a monitoring system on the outside of our buses would videotape vehicles that pass the bus when the no passing arm is displayed; the video is live fed to Smart Bus who sends the violations to the police who would review the tape

and send out citations if warranted. A number of these violations occur on a daily basis; a picture is sent to the vehicle operator who decides to either pay the fee or go to court. A portion of the revenue goes to the State and to Smart Bus and the Town's portion gets shared with the District. There is no cost to the District. Mrs. Thies strongly recommends moving forward with this.

The motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

**Recommendation #S 2010-57:** That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of a Bristol family to home school their first grade student for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year, adhering to all requirements as set forth by the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

**MOTION:** Mr. Silva motioned to approve; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recommendation #S 2010-58:** That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the Audit Report.

**MOTION:** Mrs. McBride motioned to approve; Mrs. Campbell seconded. Mrs. Thies and Mrs. Silva explained a piece of the audit has not been finalized because the State is not finished with the



**UCOA regulations; there is an extension until January; the Auditors will present to the Budget Subcommittee on December 20. Mrs. McBride amended the motion to accept the financial piece of the audit report; Mrs. Campbell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION: At 8:30 PM Mr. Silva motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining issues. Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bento announced that no decisions will be made during the session.**

**Mrs. Arsenault recused herself from the Executive Session discussion.**

## **ADJOURNMENT – 8:46 PM**

**MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. Silva, motioned to adjourn at 8:46 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen A. Lynch, Secretary**

**/c**